

Virginia Department of Education Board Highlights



For Immediate Release

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Board of Education Approves More Flexibility for SOL Testing

The Virginia Board of Education has given school divisions more flexibility in the administration of Standards of Learning tests. At its November 30, 2000, meeting in Richmond, the Board adopted a resolution allowing school divisions to administer the tests during the last three weeks of a school year or semester, effective with the spring, 2001, test administration. The resolution, which was introduced by Board President Kirk Schroder, was adopted unanimously.

The Board approved the resolution with the understanding that school divisions choosing to test during the last three weeks of the school year will not receive results prior to the close of the school year. The resolution directs divisions choosing a later testing window to ensure that students are provided remediation services as needed. The resolution also endorses the concept of regional and/or local scoring to provide divisions with "unofficial" test results before the close of the school year. The resolution sets the spring of 2002 as a target for implementation of a feasible plan for local/regional scoring.

Revised History and Social Science Standards Unveiled

The Board gave preliminary approval to revised History and Social Science Standards of Learning. Board member J. Brandon Bell, co-chair of the Review Task Force's management team, said the revisions address concerns about sequencing of content, the quantity of material to be covered during the course of a school year, and diversity. The Board approved the revised standards for public comment, and scheduled public hearings for January 8, 2001 in Norfolk, Petersburg, Marion, and Northern Virginia. The draft of the History and Social Science Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools is available on the Virginia Department of Education Web site www.pen.k12.va.us.

New Governor's School Approved

The Board approved the establishment of the Massanutten Governor's School for Integrated Environmental Science and Technology. The school will serve juniors and seniors from Harrisonburg, Page County, Rockingham County, and Shenandoah County. The school is scheduled to open in September 2001.

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Highlights from the Board of Education Meeting November 30, 2000

Consent Agenda

- Final review of recommendations concerning release of Literary Fund loans for placement on waiting list
- Final review of recommendations concerning applications for Literary Fund loans
- Final review of financial report of Literary Fund
- First review of the Study on the Feasibility and Appropriateness of Implementing a Teacher Peer Review Process in Virginia
- Report on the Supply and Demand for Instructional Personnel in Virginia

Resolutions and Recognitions

- Resolutions of Recognition presented to members of Virginia's team Competing at the International Space Olympics in Korolev, Russia, October 18-29, 2000:
 - Sarah Longest, Henrico County, Thomas Jefferson Governor's School: First Place Award Recipient
 - Benjamin Frazier, Brunswick Senior High School, Brunswick County Public Schools (not in attendance)
 - Levi Brown, Woodbridge High School, Prince William County Public Schools (not in attendance)
 - Courtney Olson, Giles High School/Southwest Virginia Governor's School
 - Lee Tessler, York County, Tabb High School and New Horizon's Governor's School: Third Place Award Recipient
 - Michael Robinson, Greenville County High School, Greenville County Public Schools
 - Keith N. Harrop, Monticello High School, Albemarle County Public Schools
 - Jessica Williams, Langley High School, Fairfax County Public Schools
 - Angela Kusaj, Greenville County, Greenville High School and Governor's School for Global Economics: Fourth Place Award Recipient
 - Matt Evans, Brunswick County High School, Brunswick County Public Schools: Fourteenth Place Award Recipient
- Resolutions of Recognition Presented to the Recipients of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards for 2000:
 - Charla Faulkner Crews, Meadville Elementary School, Halifax County Public Schools
 - Deborah A. Lassiter, John Tyler Elementary School, Portsmouth Public Schools
 - Steven T. Jackson, Principal, Spotswood Elementary School, Harrisonburg Public Schools
 - E. Wade Whitehead, Jr., Crystal Spring Elementary School, Roanoke City Public Schools
- Resolution of Recognition Presented to Luck Stone Corporation for its Outstanding Teacher Resource Kit, *The Luck Stone*

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Discussion and Action Items

ITEM	ACTION
Final Review of a proposal to establish the Massanutten Governor's School for Integrated Environmental Science and Technology to serve the Counties of Page, Rockingham, and Shenandoah, and the City of Harrisonburg	The Board approved the proposal on final review.
Resolution on Regional/Local Scoring of Standards of Learning Tests providing for testing during the last three weeks of the semester/year and support for the concept of regional/local scoring	The Board waived first review and adopted the resolution on final review.
First Review of the Revised History and Social Science Standards of Learning	The Board accepted the Revised History and Social Science SOL on first review and approved the draft for public comment. Public hearings scheduled for January 8, 2001.
Report on pilot programs conducted during the summer of 2000, and recommendations for expanding the Career Switcher Alternative Route to Licensure Program for other Professionals	The Board accepted the report.
First review of proposed Academic Review Process for schools Accredited with Warning	The Board waived first review and approved the plan on final review after adopting an amendment deleting a requirement that divisions authorized by the Board to conduct their own academic reviews include an outside contractor or other non-division employee on academic review teams.
First review of Guidelines Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia	The Board waived first review and adopted the guidelines on final review.
First review of resolution recognizing the Virginia Council for Private Education as the accrediting agency for private nursery, preschool, elementary, and secondary schools in Virginia	The Board waived first review and adopted the resolution on final review.
First review of requirements for literacy and numeracy assessments for the Modified Standard Diploma	The Board waived first review and approved the requirements on final review.
First review of courses to satisfy requirements for the Modified Standard Diploma	The Board waived first review and approved the recommendation on final review.
Presentation of a report on the results of a state-wide study on effective practices in Virginia Schools	The Board accepted the report.
Report on the use of the Local Eligibility License for the 2000-01 school Year	The Board accepted the report after adopting a resolution in favor of legislation to bar the issuance of Local Licenses to holders of Provisional Licenses.

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